

Jacob Vanderboeck House
Dunker Hook Lane
Fairlawn, Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-563

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Jacob Vanderbeck House
Dunker Hook Lane
Fairlawn, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Leslie D. Maugle

Date of Erection: Probably 1740

Architect:

Builder: Jacob Vanderbeck, Sr.

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - sandstone

Exterior walls - first two
stories red sandstone, top
half story frame construc-
tion

Interior walls - plaster
with first floor beams
exposed

Floors random width white
pine boards on hand hewn
oak beams

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

This house is one of three built by Jacob Vanderbeck Sr. in the eighteenth century. It is known locally as the Maria Ann Ackerman House since she owned it from 1869 to 1901. The other two houses were built close by; one was known as the Harmonus Vanderbeck House,

destroyed by fire in 1936, and the other is called the Vanderbeck-Ferdon House, still standing north of Fairlawn Avenue and south of the Saddle River bank. (The latter we surveyed under number NJ-45 and title Jacob Vanderbeck House with proper address). The land upon which all of these houses were built was owned in the seventeenth century by William Nicoll who sold on August 24, 1695 to Lawrence H. Toers who in turn deeded to Richard and Cornelius Drake. This tract which took in all the land on the east and south side of Saddle River was then sold by Cornelius Drake to Jacob Vanderbeck Sr.

Jacob Vanderbeck Sr. was a miller by trade. With his three sons Harmonus, Jacob, and Cornelius, he managed a mill in conjunction with the farm. The mill formerly stood where the bridge on Dunker Hook Road is now located; this is north of the house. Jacob Sr. divided his property into three parts, a portion for each of his sons, keeping the old homestead near the mill for himself. After Jacob Sr. died the house became the property of Jacob Jr. There is no record of the death of Jacob Sr. or of a transfer to his son Jacob Jr., but in a deed dated April 15, 1800, when Jacob Vanderbeck gave title for the property to John H. Garritson, we find it described as part of the farm of John Vanderbeck deceased. By his last will and testament John H. Garritson left this property to his son John I., who by his will dated May 15, 1838 bequeathed his real estate to his widow ordering that at her death it be sold.

The executors of John I. Garritson by deed dated March 25, 1839 sold the property to John J. Ferdon. Ferdon left it to his daughter Mary Ann Ackerman by deed dated April 30, 1869. Mary Ackerman died in 1901 and by her will she left her homestead to her daughter Rachel Ann stipulating at the same time that at her daughter's death it should go to her two granddaughters Sara and Mary. These two, Sara S. Snyder and Mary E. Courter, deeded the property on October 21, 1925 to Leslie D. Naugle, the present owner.

The common ancestor of the Vanderbeck family was Paulus, a native of Bremen, Germany, who came to America about 1643. He married Maria Thomas a widow of

New Amsterdam on October 9, 1744. In 1655 he was living in Brooklyn; a few years later he was a ferry master on Long Island; in 1675 he was listed as a tax payer in Brooklyn. In 1677 he was one of the patentees of the Brooklyn patent; at that time we know that he was residing on a farm at Gowanus which he had purchased of Garret Bergen. He died on this farm in 1680. There were six children by this marriage; Conrad² Vanderbeck was the oldest son. He had a son Paulus³ who married the widow of Samuel Berry and moved to Bergen County. It was a son of his, Jacob Sr., who purchased the land from Cornelius Drake in 1734.

The house of the survey, we believe, was erected a short time after this acquisition of Jacob Vanderbeck. There is no proof of this but it seems likely since it was close to his mill, and it also seems possible when we remember that when he divided his farm among his three children he kept this homestead for himself. The exterior and the interior of the original portion has been unchanged. The house consists of a low basement, first floor, and the upper portion of frame. The first floor contains the living room and a small kitchen; the upper floor was built long after the original house and has two large bedrooms and a storage room.

Bibliography:

Harvey, C. B. Genealogical History of Hudson and Burlington Counties, New Jersey New York: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1900

A search of Bergen County court records by Joseph Benenati, Bergen County Office

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Approved:

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